



Marden High School

Friday 13th September 2019

Dear All,

One of the very important elements of our children's education is something we call 'Etiquette for Success', something we want all of our young people to work on developing during their time here at Marden. This is a very important concept, and can best be described as a blend of communication, presentation and networking skills that can be developed alongside a strong work ethic, strong leadership of self, and awareness of being part of a team. There are many opportunities we give our students to develop their 'Etiquette for Success', sometimes through their careers related learning, work with the School Cabinet, or through the many extra-curricular activities that are available to them, to name but a few. Another area that is instrumental in developing this 'Etiquette for Success' is through the two successful Girls' and Boys' Networks that we facilitate and are about to re-launch for this academic year, where a number of business and industry professionals come in to school to work with and mentor some of our students. This mentoring and networking has helped past students to achieve great academic success, and has the potential to continue to support them as the mentoring continues into their later education and early working life. Look out also for our careers provision being updated on the school website, with lots of exciting events coming up for students to help prepare them for their futures.

At the end of next week we have a group of year 11 students and staff travelling to Switzerland for our annual visit to CERN and the Large Hadron Collider. This promises to be a very interesting and insightful trip to see the wonderful sights and facilities at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, as well as enhancing the students' understanding of particle physics.

Last weekend a group of Year 10 students took part in a residential at Birdoswald Roman Fort. The event was run by Lincoln College Oxford Outreach Team and funded by the Lord Crewe Trust with the aim of informing young people about all aspects of university and developing critical thinking skills. The students were well-challenged with activities such as debating, examining Roman artefacts and a scavenger hunt around the fort itself. There was also an opportunity to work with students from two other schools and two student ambassadors from Oxford University. Marden students took full advantage of these opportunities and said that it had been a great weekend. "It made me realise that University wasn't going to be as hard to get into as I had thought."

This coming week we are nominating form reps and receiving applications from students to join the School Cabinet. This year the charities we are supporting cover a wide range and the Cabinet is now operating more closely with the form reps and the prefects, within

specialised sub-groups to ensure even more effective Student Voice when shaping the way our school helps all students and the local community. Our form reps will be meeting with Heads of Year soon and then each half term as they seek to support their classmates in a responsible and reflective fashion, as well as developing leadership skills.

You may have heard about the climate change strikes being organised by students in various locations around the UK and Europe. Central to their protest is the inaction from governments around the world to cut CO2 emissions at a fast enough rate to meet levels agreed at the latest climate accord in Paris, with the resultant effect of accelerating environmental degradation and global warming. As a school, we cannot encourage or condone students missing time from school. However, the issue that the students are protesting about is clearly an important one, and they are the next generation to struggle with the consequences of climate change, and so I would like us to be able to support any of them who want to get their views on this matter across, without them being absent from school. To this end, on Friday 20th September, a group of students and staff will be demonstrating with banners, speeches and posters on the seafront in order to communicate their views on what needs to be done to work towards a more environmentally sustainable future. This will be a great opportunity for our young people to deliver a reasoned and responsible message to the wider community. There has also been a [Parliamentary Petition](#) set up, which is asking the government to create a mechanism that takes into account the voices of under 18s when it makes decisions related to climate change. It may be that you wish to sign it in order to support Student Voice.

Starting on Tuesday next week we will be providing fitness and sports sessions, led by a fitness coach from Tyne Met College, for our Year 10 and Year 11 students in the Sports Hall. As students get into Key Stage 4 and start to prepare for exams, we hope that they will take advantage of these sessions as a counterbalance to all the concentrated academic work they will be doing this year. The aim is for students to be able to relax and do something physical, with the resultant benefits to their mental wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher